VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (*contd.*)

DEMAND XIV—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. (*contd.*)

Motion No. 539. (*contd.*)

PRESIDENT : Mr. N. Narayana Kurup was on his legs when the House adjourned yesterday.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertala*) : I was submitting yesterday that the motto of the Agricultural Department must be the general welfare and progress of the agriculturists in all directions. Instead of supplying Guini, grass and Napier grass and maintaining some agricultural farms and also giving grants to seed bulls, the Agricultural Department should have a definite programme for rural reconstruction. I may suggest that this Department can be of very great use to the agricultural people in general in several ways. Even in the matter of tax they can help other Departments in this way. Suppose the tax of a particular area is very excessive and is disproportionate to the paying capacity of that particular place. Then the Agricultural Department which knows better, the yielding capacity and the nature of the sand in that particular locality, can find out the rate of tax that can be assessed and can recommend either to the Land Revenue Department or the Government that such a heavy rate is excessive and that the people find it difficult to pay such tax. In that way they can be of help to the Agricultural Department. I may illustrate an instance in Kuttanad. This House knows that Kuttanad comprises of Kandukrishi lands. Unfortunately due to the increase of population and want of land, people have encroached upon Kandukrishi lands and made certain improvements. Now the Land Revenue Department takes it into its head to realise a penalty tax of 5 times and a multi penalty tax now. Perhaps the improvement, might itself be not worth the value of tax to be paid. If the Agricultural Department is really to help the agricultural people as a whole that Department can recommend to Government that this tax is very high and unjust and that people are unable to pay such tax. In this particular case I can suggest to the Agricultural Department to look to the welfare of the agricultural classes as a whole in taking the rural reconstruction as the programme of the Department. Further, the Agricultural Department can take the village as a unit and find out suitable variety of crops to be cultivated there. In addition to that the Department should find out the suitable cottage industry to that village and teach them, just to increase the income of the villagers and if necessary, recommend for industrial loans to the poor people of the locality so that they may earn their livelihood by industrial pursuits as well. Even though there are several departments for respective works, I am of opinion that the Agricultural Department must be the medium through which the agricultural classes should get help for their welfare and progress.

I will make one or two suggestions for the improvement of the Agricultural Department as it exists now. All the unnecessary appendages should be stopped. I may refer to the agricultural farm in

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup.]

Alleppey. It was started when there was real necessity for an experimental farm like that. From the Administration Report this House can know that the average yielding capacity is Rs. 200 per annum, while the annual expenditure comes to Rs. 400. Therefore the Farm is run at a loss of Rs. 200 per year. All the adjacent lands are yielding well and there is no necessity for such a farm. If the farm is divided into small blocks and sold, Government can realise a sum not less than Rs. 20,000. Therefore instead of meeting a recurring loss of Rs. 200 per annum, Government can gain an equal amount as interest if the sale amount is invested at 1 per cent. interest; or the whole amount can be utilised for other agricultural purposes if the farm is stopped. There are ever-so-many other farms which are run at a loss to Government. I would submit that the Department should take care to stop all unnecessary appendages now existing.

With regard to the veterinary aid to the agricultural classes as a whole I may inform this House that due to the absence of a veterinary hospital in the water logged areas of Kuttanad, several cattle which are supposed to be the actual wealth of the agricultural classes, meet with untimely death. There is only one Veterinary Doctor at Alleppey whom we have to approach. It is unfortunate that he is appointed for 3 taluks; Shertalai, Ambalapuzha and Vaicome. He has to make his travel for not less than 10 days per month. If a cattle is taken to Alleppey on a particular day the doctor may not be there. People have to take cattle to Alleppey from long distances of 18 to 20 miles. So, practically, there is no use of a hospital like that. The Director must take particular care in starting Veterinary Hospitals in the central places of Kuttanad so that agricultural classes may be benefited by such an arrangement. If it is possible, I would suggest the introduction of moving Veterinary Dispensaries in motor boats touching all the important water-logged areas in Kuttanad. That will be of very great help to the agricultural classes. It may not cost very much to the Government. Of course, for construction of the boat it may cost about Rs. 3000 and recurring expenditure may not be more than Rs. 1000 for medicine. Such a scheme will be of very great help to the agricultural classes. With these observations I move the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): I rise to make a few observations on this motion. We heard yesterday a good deal of arguments for stopping this department altogether. I may suggest that before stopping this department and before taking such a drastic step it is for the House to see whether it will be possible to try to mend matters from what we have at present. We have now a head of the Department well meaning, and enthusiastic and he has given us promise that he will leave no stone unturned in seeing that the Department serves the actual needs of the people and that it justifies its existence. We have instances in European countries, in Japan and America where agriculture is taken to by the people and by the Department on

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an intensive scale so that agriculture, to speak in general, has become profitable in those countries. The advancement of science has added much to this. Can we not try to see whether we can learn anything from those countries. We know that in countries like Japan and America by the help of science people are able to produce 30 to 50 'meni' of products while we are producing 5 and 6 'meni' in large majority of cases. If it is possible in those countries to carry on agriculture on such profitable lines, it is up to us to see whether we can do the same here also.

Speaking about the Agricultural Department, to me, it appears that the whole question in complex and difficult. It is not to be talked of so lightly as it was talked of by many. The entire State has to be taken into consideration. Travancore is different from many other countries. It is an agricultural country. Agriculture is not a side industry in Travancore. It is the mainstay of the people and the entire question of poverty, disease, the wealth of the country, the produce of the nation, all things come up here. The whole question of nation building comes in. The Agricultural Department is entrusted to look after the welfare of the 50 or 60 lakhs of people inhabiting in the land in their manifold activities in supporting themselves. So the Agricultural Department cannot be viewed apart from its nation building programme. The entire question of the reconstruction of the nation on agricultural lines comes in ; all industrial and other side businesses have to be taken along with this. Hence my submission is that if we do away with the Agricultural Department it would not improve matters. What appears to me to be lacking is fund and the hearty co-operation of the Government. Government itself with the assistance of this Department may launch on an active and intensive nation building programme. This is the Department towards which the people look forward for help and assistance. It may be that it does not serve up to the standard to which it is expected. I submit that it is not entirely due to the fault of the Department or the fault of the former Director or the present Director. It is because the whole question is so complex and so tough. With the aid and active support of the Government an entire nation building programme has to be brought about so that in future we may have progress instead of chocking in this direction. But I do not mean by this that the Department has justified its existence so far. We know that by way of stopping the pest on cocoanut trees nothing has been done so far. In the matter of intensive cultivation of paddy and other kinds of useful products nothing has been done effectively. We know that year after year we are importing rice which is the staple food of the country from outside for crores of rupees. In 1113 we imported rice to the value of over 2 crores and 40 lakhs of rupees. This is in excess of what we imported in 1112 to the value of 22 lakhs of rupees. Supposing a world war breaks out where are we to go in for our staple food ? Another point to be considered is that by this import of rice and by ourselves depending on foreign rice we are draining our resources year after year. Is it not high time for the head of the Department to see that the people are not to starve and our resources drained in this manner. The Agricultural Department can do

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[Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.]

much with the help of the Government if the Government are really serious over the question. Again, the Department can introduce commercial crops such as soya bean, sugarcane &c. They can grow fruit trees and give example to people. They can see that their marketing officers do substantial work for the benefit of the agricultural population. They can see that the Plant Pathologist does not sit quiet without justifying the high salary that he receives.

There is another important point also to be considered. I would draw the attention of the Government and the Department to the necessity of active propaganda throughout the country. The Department is lacking in active propaganda in rural parts where it is most needed. People in rural parts, a vast majority of them do not know what the Agricultural Department does. They are least benefited by propaganda which is so much valued in other civilised countries. I am sure Sir, that much can be done towards improving the agricultural prospects of our land.

I may now turn to the question of the coconut industry of our land. Every man in our country is a coconut producer and I am sure that if this vital question is taken up by the Government and if the influence and force of the present administration are brought to bear on the respective Governments concerned I think that this all important question can be solved to the satisfaction and relief of our agriculturists. With these words I support the motion.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir, I support the motion. Because much has been said about the agricultural activities of this Department I want to say something about the fisheries. Our country is one which imports paddy to the value of about 4 crores of rupees. If the Fisheries Department could improve the industry it may be possible for us to export fish to the same value or even more. The extend of our country is about 1/20 of Germany but the production of fish comes to ½ of what Germany produces. Even though Bombay and Madras possess coasts, ten times longer Travancore produces fish which is about 1/3 of what Bombay produces or ½ of what Madras produces. Out of the total population of 200000 of fishermen nearly 35,000 are engaged directly or indirectly in the industry. The total amount of our annual catch is Rs. 125 lakhs i. e. Rs. 370 per head of the population engaged in the industry. The value of our export of fish comes to about 40 lakhs of rupees. Sir, what I, submit is that it is capable of unlimited expansion since the whole world is our market of this industry.

Two of the most inconvenient features are the quickly deteriorating nature of fish and the enormous changes in the amounts of catch from season to season. Fish in the abundant season is cheap but it cannot be dried in the sun as that season is often rainy. Now we have to consider two important factors in connection with the expansion of this trade. Firstly we must find out ways and means to increase the

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production and secondly we must find out suitable markets outside to sell the commodity. We must be able to stock and keep fresh the fish caught by the people. Caning and cold storage are the only systems which can help these people. Then Government should explore all outside markets which would fetch better prices. At present our markets are the Tamil Districts in British India, the Island of Ceylon Federated Malay States, and Burma. As far as the trade is concerned, now it is absolutely in the hands of a few rich merchants who have formed themselves into a powerful combine and reduced the trade to mere speculation. Sir, the poor catcher and the distributor are like heavy losers in the business. About 35,000 of these catchers get only that much is enough to keep them from starvation. Then again, there is the question of deep-sea fishing which is unknown in Travancore at present. If it is introduced. I am sure it will raise the yield considerably. As in Japan fish farms should also be tried here. I am sure, Sir, if sponge is transplanted on our coast either from the Mediterranean or elsewhere we could get markets for that since it is in constant demand. In Japan and other countries there are trade associations, fishery chambers and other marketing facilities to support and develop this industry. By proper preservation, transportation and distribution this commodity, I am sure will be advantageous both to the catcher and to the consumer in getting good prices but in organising such agencies one thing should be borne in mind. The Government should on no account tamper with or compete with the existing agencies trasporting fish by boats, cycles, cars and lories. Sir, a word more about the money lending business connected with this trade. The catcher approaches the money lender whenever he needs money and he borrows at an exorbitant rate of interest. The poor catcher in return is forced to give over all his catch to the money lender. The prices are always fixed by the money lender by that the poor man loses a good price for his fish in addition to the high rate of interest he is forced to pay. I hope it is high time for Government to interfere in this matter and put a stop to this pernicious system, in favour of these poor catchers. With these words I support the motion.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Sir, I wish to say a few words on the matter under debate. Before attributing all the blame for the present deplorable state of agriculture in the country, to the Agricultural Department, we will have to take into account certain circumstances which are likely to influence our judgments on the question. They are the present depressed condition of the agriculturists, all over the country continued drought in certain parts, failure of certain irrigation schemes failure of seasonal rains, uneven distribution of rain fall and etc., and these are matters beyond the control of man. My point therefore is that in a matter like this it is nothing but fair that this aspect of the question is kept in view before we pronounce any judgment on the department. I believe that there has been in this house some misapprehension regarding the objcts of experimental and demonstractive farms. My view is that they are affording the greatest possible good to the country. They demonstrate to the people what all plants or trees they should

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[Mr. C. Jebamony Nadar.]

select for cultivation and what all they should discard. Take the case of the fruit garden at the cape. It has served to establish what kind of Grape Vine could be cultivated in the south. A variety known as Black Prince flourishes excellently well and yields in abundance. Take again mango cultivation. What kinds could you select? This has also been effectively demonstrated by the fruit farm at Cape. Various varieties of mango plants were got down from different places such as Bangalore etc. All of them were planted in the garden, some died while others grew. Of these some varieties did not flower, while a few others did not yield any fruits. But limited varieties produced good results in adaptability and yield. Thus these farms demonstrate to us the particular kind of tree which we could select for a mango grove. Government only could afford to run such farms as they are very costly to maintain. Again but for the fruit farm at Cape we would not have known of a fruit known as safodila Sir, that is a very delicious fruit which can be grown with advantage. The results thus indicated by these gardens are as necessary as they are useful. For these reasons I think the experimental farms at Cape and other places are very necessary. It is wrong to view them as commercial concerns.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know from the member whether these experimental farms as well as demonstration farms can be run on a commercial basis?

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: I do not believe that they can be run on commercial basis. Sir, Government must run these farms not for profit but with a view to advance the agricultural interests of the country.

Another matter which I want to bring to the attention of this House is that sufficient powers should be given to the Agricultural Department for the execution of the necessary irrigation works, Agricultural Department can understand better the real needs of the agriculturists and so it is only proper that the irrigation branch of the P. W. D. should be brought under the control of the Agricultural Department. Sir, in this connection I may quote what the honourable President of this House said on a former occasion:

> "In other words, the experience of other countries, if it teaches anything at all, teaches this, that a population solely depending upon agriculture and agricultural operations cannot be a prosperous or self sufficient community. Some subsidiary occupation, some supplemental industry is necessary in order to make for the happiness, nay, for the bare subsistence on an ordinary level of the agriculturists."

Certainly this is a very correct diagnosis of the real position. That being the position of our agriculture, it is imperatively necessary that this department should be so reorganised as to meet these demands of the agriculturists under these peculiar circumstances. It might be that such a scheme of reorganisation might be entirely different from what is obtaining in other countries. Yet, this is another matter in which Travancore could lead other parts of India by constituting an ideal

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Agricultural Department best suited for an agricultural country, which could completly satisfy, the various needs of the unfortunate peasant.

Sir, now turning to another topic that is the problem of raising food crops it is high time that the department turns its attention in devising ways and means for making the state self sufficing. It is admitted that we now depend upon other countries for our rice. If the international situation grows bad, I believe, we may have to face starvation. That is therefore a matter which must engage the serious attention of the department.

Now I come to the question of taxation as it has a direct bearing on the agriculturists. It has been conceded by Government that certain parts of the State are overtaxed and I again feel greateful to the Dewan President for having announced that in a statement which reads thus :

> "I may again say in passing that Government are fully alive to the fact that there are certain parts of the State which are very heavily taxed in comparison with certain others. There is no questioning the fact that portions of South Travancore pay proportionately and relatively much more than, for instance certain parts of Central and North Travancore, which bear comparatively a lighter tax and there are cases where no tax is paid at all to the Government. Trespasses encroachments, new plantations in unsurveyed localities escape all burdens. These are matters which have to be enquired into and in any research that the Government undertake, it will be there object to see to it that the burden of taxation is equalised as far as possible, and that nobody escapes taxation who can and ought to pay."

Yet, till now no relief has been afforded to my constituency. Land Tax from the people is collected by the Revenue Department which is however not in sympathy with the poor, suffering agriculturists. Therefore if this also is entrusted to the Agricultural Department I believe that the rate payer could get better sympathy. Agriculture in our country cannot function without successful and effective irrigation works. Suppose the Director feels the need for a particular repair of a petty nature to a certain tank. He is powerless to effect this. So my suggestion is that the irrigation branch of the P. W. D. has to be separated from it and placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture. With these words, I resume my seat.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN: മി. കെ. ആർ. നാരായണൻ ഇവിടത്തെ അഗ്രിക്കൾച്ചറൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ കടുവായോടെയ പുലിയോടെ ഉപമിക്കാതെ ഒരു പശുവിനോട ഉപമിച്ചതു വളരെ നന്നായിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതു ഒരു മച്ചിപ്പശുവായിപ്പോയതു ശരിയാണൊ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടെ ആദ്യം വന്നിയതു ഇവിടത്തെ ഭൂപ്രകൃതിക്കു ഒട്ടും യോജിക്കാത്ത ഐറിഷ് പശുവിനെയായിരുന്നു. ആ പശുവിനു ദേശാവസ്ഥ, കലാവസ്ഥ ഇവകളും യോജിയ്ക്കാഴിക്കയാലും ആ വശുവിനു വേണ്ട തീറ്റി സാധനങ്ങളും കൊടുത്തു സംരക്ഷിക്കാത്തതിനാലും നാൾക്കുനാൾ പ്രയോജന രഹിതമായി പൊയ്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിനാലും ആശങ്കകൾക്കു വിധേയ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. P. Kochukoratharakan.]

മായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നുവെന്നു മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. കാലദേശാവസ്ഥയനുസരിച്ചു് ഐറിഷ് പഞ്ചുക്കം നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിനു പറ്റിയതല്ല. ഇവിടെ ഏറ്റവും ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായി കാണുന്ന കറാച്ചിപ്പുതുവിനോടാണു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ഉപമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അതിനോടൊപ്പം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ഗുണപുഷ്ടിയും പ്രയോജനപ്രദവും ആക്കാൻവേണ്ടി ഇന്നത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ അവർകൾ ഏതാണ്ടു നാളുകളായി അശ്രാന്തം ശ്രമിച്ചുവരികയാണു്. ഇവിടെ തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന പുകയിലകൃഷി അത്യുദ്യമകരമാണെന്നു് കണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരുപയോഗമില്ലാത്തതും നാൾക്കുനാൾ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതും ആയ അനേകം ഫാറംമ്സ് ഇനിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഫാറംമ്സ്കളെ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ നിറുത്തികളയുകയാണു വേണ്ടതു്. അതിനു പകരം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉപയോഗമുള്ള രീതിയിൽ മാതൃകാത്തോട്ടങ്ങളെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും വേണം. കഞ്ചാവു് കൃഷി നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിനു ഏറ്റവും പറ്റിയതാണു്.

അടുത്തകാലത്തു് ഏതാനും മൃഗവൈദ്യന്മാരെ കുന്നത്തുനാടു, മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, വടക്കൻപറവൂർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്കു നിയമിച്ചയക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഇതു് സന്തോഷിക്കത്തക്ക ഒരു കാര്യമാണു്. മുൻപു് അവിടെ കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു് പിടിപെട്ടിരുന്ന ഒരുവക തൊന്തിക്സ് എന്ന ദീനത്തിൽ കന്നുകാലികളുടെ തൊണ്ണൂറു ശതമാനം ചത്തുപോയി. എന്നാൽ ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലം ആ സുഖക്കേടു പിടിപെട്ട കന്നുകാലികളിൽ 60 ശതമാനമെ മരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല മറ്റു കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു ഈ ദീനം പകരാതെ കുത്തിവയ്പു നടത്തി ആ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള കന്നുകാലികളെ ഈ ഭയങ്കര വ്യാധിയിൽ നിന്നു രക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ ഭയങ്കരവ്യാധിയിൽ നിന്നും കന്നുകാലികളെ രക്ഷിച്ചതു് കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഊർജ്ജിതമായ പ്രവർത്തനം കൊണ്ടുമാത്രമായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള പലതും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതി പ്രശംസാർഹമാണു്. കുന്നത്തുനാടു താലൂക്കിൽ വളം ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനു ജനങ്ങളെ ഉത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചു വളം ശേഖരിപ്പിച്ചു പ്രദർശിപ്പിയ്ക്കുകയും ആ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ഡയറക്ടർ വന്നിരുന്നു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയുംചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതും ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT : The honourable member's time is over. I can only call upon two more honourable members and I trust that their remarks will be brief because some time will have to be given to the Director to answer the points referred to here.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER : Sir.....

PRESIDENT : I can give the honourable member three minutes and then I shall call another honourable member.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : Sir, I support the motion before the House. The Agricultural Department is the department which we ought to encourage in this land. But unfortunately, the result of the working of the Agricultural Department does not encourage our inclination to support that department. This department has to devise measures to improve our intensive cultivation and the department also can set a model to be followed by our cultivators. In none of these directions has this department done anything. Some model farms of wet lands and garden lands of extensive acres could have been undertaken under the supervision of the department and by the prosperity of the methods employed therein especially in manuring and scientific cultivation, they could have induced our agriculturists to follow their example. The department has taken up some model-farms, and as we have seen all of them have failed. Take, for example, the experimental farm at Ochira for the cultivation of cocoanut palms. The plantation there has failed. The fate of the ordinary cocoanut farms has been that of the model farms also. Though the Taluks of Karunagapally, Karthigapally, and Meenachil were infected by contageous diseases of the cocoanut tree etc., all this time the Agricultural Department, which was in full operation during the last thirty years, was not upto this moment able to bring forward any remedy. In spite of their experiments, the cocoanut and arrecanut trees are even now exposed to contageous diseases. We are aware that very many experts were working in the department. There were the Biochemist, the Entomologist, the Economic Botanist the Mycologist and so many other experts. They were working in the Agricultural Department up to this and now it appears that those experts are transferred to some other department. Though they were working under the Agricultural Department we could see no results from their work and experimental cultivation. The people had nothing to gain from their investigations. I also submit that the Agricultural Department could have given some advice in the breeding of cows and bulls. In that direction also they have not done anything successfully. They could have supplied us with milk, one of the primary necessities of people living in towns. The department has failed in this direction also. They could have at least set an example as to how we are to breed the cows in a better way and how the maximum quantity of milk could be got from them. They could have taught the agriculturists to run the milk industry in a profitable way. They could teach us none of these things. The Agricultural Department could have rendered us without difficulty another service *viz.*, they could have studied the scientific cultivation process and educated the people in the scientific method of cultivation carried on in the civilized world. They could have done sufficient propaganda for the purpose through out the land.

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MR. T. T KESAVAN SASTRI: Sir.....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has three minutes.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: നമ്മുടെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പ്പററി വളരെ ആശയും ആപ്രത്യേകതയും എനിക്കുണ്ട്. ദക്ഷിണേന്ത്യയിലെ പ്രധാന കർഷകരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് പ്രതിവർഷം അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെട്ടു കാണേണ്ടതാണല്ലൊ. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ വളർച്ച വളരെ പതുങ്ങിയ മട്ടിലാണെന്നും ഭരണം അസമർത്ഥമാണെന്നും അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളവരോട് പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. പ്രാരംഭത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഉയർച്ച വളരെ പ്രശംസനീയമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് പറയാൻ ഞാൻ മടിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഉപയോഗം ഇന്നത്തേതുപോലെ എന്നും മതിയെന്നോ, ഇന്നു നടക്കുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തന്നെ മേലും നടന്നാൽ മതിയെന്നോ, എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. വേണ്ട പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും ആദായങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണാവശ്യം. കാലഗതിക്കനുസരണമായ കർഷക പരിഷ്കരണങ്ങൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്യണം. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നടത്തുന്ന ഏതുകൃഷികളും മറവുള്ളവക്ക് മാതൃകയാക്കണം. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് കൃഷികൾ മോശപ്പെട്ടു കാണാൻ ഇടയായാൽ അത് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ നേരെ അതൃപ്തിക്കും അവിശ്വാസത്തിനും സംഗതിയാക്കുന്നതാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ജനതയുടെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രധാനമായ മരച്ചീനികൃഷിക്ക് അത്തർഹിക്കുന്ന യാതൊരു പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങളും ഡിപ്പാർമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കാണ്മാനായി ചെയ്തു കാണുന്നില്ല. തെങ്ങുകൃഷികൊണ്ടോ നെല്ലുകൃഷികൊണ്ടോ മാത്രം ജീവിക്കുന്നവർ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപേർമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. ദാരിദ്ര്യദേവതയുടെ അളവറ്റ പീഡനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഭ്രഷ്ടരക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളെ കാപ്പാനായി സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്ന മരച്ചീനികൃഷിയെ മറെറല്ലാ കൃഷികളേയും കാൾ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയിലാക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. തെങ്ങിനു ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനും കയറുമതി സാധനങ്ങൾ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനും മറ്റും ചെലവാകുന്നപണം മരച്ചീനി കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി വ്യയം ചെയ്താൽ ഗണ്യമായ ലാഭം കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. മരച്ചീനിക്കു മാക്കൊച്ചു കുത്തുപിടിക്കാൻ മാക്കൊറിംഗ ആഫീസർമാർ കഷ്ടപ്പെടേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതല്ല. മരച്ചീനി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു മുഴുവൻ ഇവിടെ ചെലവാകാനുള്ളതെയുള്ളൂ. അധികമായാൽ കയററി അയക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാം. മരച്ചീനികൃഷി നാട്ടിൽ നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനെ അനുസ്മരിച്ചാരാധിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ജന

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ങ്ങൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുമല്ലൊ. ഇതുപ്പോലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഉടനടൻ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്നതും ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതുമായ കൃഷികൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നടത്തണം. മാതൃകാപരമായ ഒരു തോട്ടം നടത്തി ഫലം കാണിക്കണം. അതിനു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മാത്രം പോരാ. ഗവണ്മെൻറും ശ്രമിക്കുക തന്നെവേണം. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഉയർച്ചയിൽ അഭിനന്ദനം ലഭിക്കുന്നത് തികച്ചും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെ ആയിരിക്കും ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന് ചെലവു ചെയ്യുന്ന സംഖ്യ പോരാ. ഇനിയും ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ആവശ്യമാണ്. പ്രതിവർഷം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു കൂടുതൽ ബഡ്ജറനുവദിക്കണം. കൂടുതൽ ജോലിചെയ്യാൻ കൂടുതൽ പണം വേണം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡയറക്ടരും ശ്രേഷ്ഠിമാനായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനാണ്. പഠിപ്പും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പരിചയവും ഉണ്ട്. ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം. കന്നുകാലിസംരക്ഷണവും മറ്റും കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യമാണ്. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ അഭിപ്രായവും ആവശ്യവുമറിഞ്ഞു ഭരണം നടത്തേണ്ട ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാണിതു്. ആരോപണങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അനുഭവത്തെ പരിഗണിക്കേണ്ടതത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. രാജ്യക്ഷേമതല്പരനായ നമ്മുടെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ നില ഒന്നു സമുന്നതമാക്കുവാൻ താല്പര്യമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട് എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ വേണ്ട പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പ്രത്യാശിക്കയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഇന്നത്തെ നിലയിൽ ഉള്ള സന്തോഷം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യാൻ ഈ സന്ദർഭം ഇങ്ങനെ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, the debate on the cut motion moved by the honourble member Mr. Dominic Joseph has ranged over so wide a ground, that I do not think that it would be possible, within the short space of time, to answer categorically all the points that have been raised therein.

The discussions followed mainly along four lines. First of all most of the members touched upon the general policy of the working of the department. Secondly advertance was made to intensive and extensive methods of cultivation. Thirdly, reference was made to the occurrence of diseases and pests, chiefly on cocoanuts, and on cardamoms in the High Ranges. Fourthly, reference was made to the question of improving the conditions of cattle in the State. Sir, incidentally reference was also made to the Fisheries branch of the Department,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

Before dealing with the working of the department, I shall answer some of the points with regard to the cocoanut palm disease, inasmuch as that was the subject that was referred to, rather extensively, on the floor of this House. Sir, the disease first made its appearance in 1897. The Government, in the year 1908 invited Dr. Butler, who was then the Imperial Mycologist to visit the State and examine the trouble. He laid down certain measures by which the disease could be mitigated, if not absolutely controlled. The measures recommended by him were adequate manuring, proper drainage, and efficient tillage. The department advocated these methods and conducted demonstrations in several centres. These demonstrations have shown that by proper nursing the affected trees can be made to yield satisfactorily. By that I do not mean, in the least, to minimise the gravity of the disease. As soon as this Government became a member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the problem was placed before them. With the fullest co-operation of the Council, financially and otherwise, the investigation of this serious problem has been undertaken recently in right earnest by a fully qualified Plant Pathologist with the necessary staff. The results of his investigations are hopeful and encouraging. Last time, that is about two months ago, when I attended the meeting of the Imperial Council I stressed this question. I told the expert Committee "Well, look here, the people in my place are vexed over this problem. Are you confident that the disease can be mitigated or can be cured?" The expert Committee said in reply that the investigations of the Pathologist were proceeding on right lines and the results were such as were likely to lead to a solution of the problem. I can therefore assure the honourable members of this House that, sooner or later, we can hope to be able to bring the disease under control. One thing that has to be borne in mind is that it is a very serious disease, and that successful results can be achieved only after thorough research and investigation.

With regard to the cardamom disease, Sir, I have myself visited all those areas and it is now established that the disease mainly complained of is caused by thrips and worms. The department is taking steps to demonstrate that by spraying with tobacco waste decoction and fish oil soap these two pests can be largely brought under control. As the honourable member, the mover, himself has admitted, steps are being taken to reduce the duty on cheap tobacco so that the remedy may be effectively and easily applied by the planters. As I stated during the general discussion of the budget, unless the cardamom owners also co-operate in controlling the disease, this industry may also meet with the same fate as the cocoanut industry. It is a matter for gratification, in this connection, that the planters, represented by the honourable member, are willing to co-operate in this matter by contributing a cess. I must say that it is only fit and proper that they should contribute the cess towards the protection of the cardamom industry, just as we have a cess for the protection of tea, coffee, cotton and jute, all of which like cardamoms are plantation crops.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The second point that was referred to was the introduction of new crops. This point has been borne in mind by the department.

The endeavour of the department in the direction of the introduction of a suitable variety of sugarcane in the State has produced fruitful results. The experiments that we have conducted at the Alwaye Farm have proved quite successful and the varitey of Java cane P. O. J. 2725 introduced and acclimatised has now spread well nigh over about 3000 acres. This is expected to bring in a profit of at least Rs. 1 lakh annually to our sugarcane cultivators. It is my hope that within the next four or five years all the 15,000 acres of land under cane will be replaced with this improved variety of sugarcane, so that the efforts in this direction would directly contribute to the material prosperity of the State.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Sir, what has become of the proposed sugarcane farm in Puthery ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : That has been dropped for the time being, because the conditions in South Travancore are not quite favourable now, with the inadequate supply of water for irrigation.

Sir, in regard to sugarcane cultivation, the whole plan has been reorientated.

In the matter of propaganda, many of the honourable members stated that intensive experimentation should be made and, as I have stated during the general discussion of the budget necessary steps have been taken to this end, and Government have now approved of a reorganisation scheme in the matter of propaganda. Particular centres will be selected where intensive cultivation on a scientific and co-ordinated basis, and sale of produce on co-operative lines will be followed up. An economic survey of the village will also be made. The scheme will be pursued in an intensive manner for three or four years at the end of which another economic survey will be made to find out how far the new methods have contributed towards increasing the prosperity of the village.

Much has been said about the general working of the department. As I have already stated in my former reply, it is the policy enunciated by my predecessor that has been followed till now. The general policy of the department perhaps requires to be changed. But it is rather harsh on the part of the honourable members to make a sweeping condemnation of the policy followed by the department. A summary of the achievements of the department is given in the chapter under the caption "Retrospect" in the annual report of the administration of the department for the year 1104. Considerable effort on the part of the department has resulted in the use of indigenous manures which used to be originally wasted. Liming has become a rule in all *punja* areas. Indigenous manures are being supplemented with chemical fertilisers to the value of over a lakh of rupees every year. Considerable saving has been effected in seed rate in Nanjinad. The rice stem borer pest in Nanjanad has been brought under control by tackling the pest in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

the nurseries and enormous loss is averted every year on this account. All these are proof positive to show that the Department has done its own quota and one who knows the working of the Agricultural department in other parts of India knows that our department is in no way inferior to any other Agricultural department in any part of India. The department approaches the people with the result of their investigations and experiments. But the chief difficulty is the inability of the agriculturists to follow these methods however much they would like to do so. They have not the wherewithal to be benefited by the results of our investigation. Their holdings are fragmented. They are immersed in debts.

That is the crux of the whole matter. We can successfully persuade the people to cultivate on improved lines if only cheap rural credit is made available to them.

In regard to the experimental farms, what is the criterion to be applied? No experimental farm can be viewed as a commercial profit and loss concern. Some of the experiments conducted may fail while others may succeed. It is one of the utmost importance that only the results of those successful experiments that should be passed on to the ryots. If any one of the improved strains raised in the Farm or any manurial experiment conducted leads to greater income and spreads among the cultivators that experimental station would have more than compensated the expenditure incurred by it for the spread of the variety of seed or the manurial practice. That is the criterion that is to be applied to Government farms. As I stated during the course of the Budget discussion, those farms which do not stand up to this test will be abolished. But what is required is cheap rural credit, co-operation and control over matters like irrigation. I had been to South Travancore a few days ago. I then told the people "look here, you are getting down chillies worth several thousands of rupees. It is a cash crop. Why not you cultivate the crop?" Sir, then the ryots replied "we have not got water. We require about Rs. 200 to dig a well. If you can help us we will certainly take to the cultivation of this crop." That is the position in which our ryots are.

Because of want of time I am sorry I am not able to deal with the other points raised in the debate. I am however glad that the honourable members of the House have contributed to an enlightend discussion on the policy of reconstruction of this department. The various points stressed by them will be borne in mind and, in the shaping of that policy every effort will be made to see that the hopes and aspirations of the honourable members are realised. In the circumstances I hope that the honourable member will not press his motion.

MR. DOMINIC JOSEPH: Sir, from the reply made by the Director of Agriculture, it would be only fair that we extend to him all facilities and co-operate with him. I therefore beg permission to withdraw the motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT : Before putting it to the House whether the honourable member is to be granted leave to withdraw his motion, let me just wind up the discussion by two remarks.

As has been pointed out by the Director of Agriculture, there is no reason to be dissa isfied with the work of the department in this State more than there is reason elsewhere to be dissatisfied with the work of the Agricultural Departments there. There are very big problems, and they have to be dealt with one after another in the order of importance and there is no doubt that our agricultural problems have not all been successfully solved. There are two special matters in regard to which the co-operation of this House and of the leaders of the public, is absolutely essential for the successful working of the Agricultural Department. One is the question of demonstration.

For many years in India, demonstrations have been tried if a legal expression can be used—*ab extra, i. e.*, from outside. In one or two localities in India, an alternative method is being attempted, namely, to try the demonstration on the farmer's own holding ; in other words to take one portion of the farmer's holding and cultivate it with the scientific equipment at the disposal of the department, applying scientific manure and appliances and methods. Side by side, in the contiguous plot, also belonging to the same farmer, the farmer cultivates the same crop, but according to traditional methods. If the farmer is satisfied that in the plot cultivated by the department the results are conspicuously better than in the plot cultivated by him, centrainly, the new methods of the department would appeal to him. That will be the best form of propaganda. The experiment has been tried in Mysore and in certain other places. That is one of the courses of action which Government have in view.

Something has been said of cattle. There again, to a large extent, it is a matter for propaganda. I think it is a demonstrable fact that, on account of the rain-fall and the quality of fodder available in Travancore, cows are not likely to thrive well here. The question is whether a more hardy animal like the buffalo should not be made more popular than at present. The milk products of the buffalo should be experimented upon and tried by the rural population among whom undoubtedly there is at present a prejudice against the buffalo dairy products. There also, propaganda is necessary.

We shall be failing in our duty if we do not mention in this connection that the work of the Travancore Agricultural Department has been greatly assisted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. They have given us some grants—although not as much as we would wish—and have also lent us certain officers for research.

Now much more than help from outside, as was very rightly stressed and emphasised in this House, there should be complete co-operation between the various departments like the Co-operation, Irrigation, Public Works and Agricultural Departments. It is only with such co-operation that any good results can be achieved. The creation of propaganda centres in suitable localities is also a matter of paramount

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[President.]

importance for the successful working of the Agricultural Department; because, it is only by propaganda that you can bring into existence new crops, intensive cultivation of old crops, and better breeding of cattle.

I trust that the department will function on these lines in such a manner that this House, on the next occasion it meets, will acclaim the work of the department as worthy of praise and emulation.

The motion was, by leave withdrawn.

Motions Nos. 540 to 562.

The following motions were not moved as the time allotted for the Demand had expired.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:
540. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,900 for Director by Re 1

MR A K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN:
541. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,900 for Director by Re. 1

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:
542. To omit the allotment of Rs. 978 for Manager

DIRECTION—*Allowances.*

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:
543 To reduce the allotment of Rs 4,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN:
544. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for travelling allowance by Re 1

MR. G. VELU PILLAI:
545. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,950 for total of 21 A (ii) re Investigation of Root diseases of the cocoanut palm by Re. 1

Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR THAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTHOMMEN:
546. To Omit the allotment of Rs. 31,773 for Direction

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:
547. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,773 for Direction by Re. 1

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA:
548 To reduce the allotment of Rs 31,773 for Direction by Rs. 15

MR. P. S. MUHAMED:
549. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,773 for Direction by Rs. 10

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU:
550. To reduce the allotment of Rs 31,773 for Direction by Re. 1

21 B—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND MANURE DEPOTS

Motions for reduction of total grant.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH:
551. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 50,964 for Experimental Farms and Manure Depots by Rs 14,157

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21 G—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES—FISHERIES—
Allowances.

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :
552. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for travelling allowance by Re 1

MR A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :
553. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for travelling allowance by Re. 1

Motions for reduction of total grant under Demand XIV.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP :
554. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Rs. 10

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI :
555. To reduce the total allotment of 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :
556. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR :
557. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP :
558. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Rs. 10

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY :
559. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

MR P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY :
560. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Rs. 10

MR A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :
561. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN :
562. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV by Re. 1

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,32,262 under Demand XIV was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—POLICE.

KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB : Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 8,76,711, under Demand XIII—Police.

Motion No. 472

MR. E. P. VARGHESE : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,200 for Deputy Inspector-General of Police by Re. 1. (To discuss the inconvenience caused to the public by the absence of any check by the Police of the bus service between Alwaye and Parur)."

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